

# Seals Pledge 'Competitive' NHL Club

MAY 19 1966

The California Seals, having "made our commitment to the Eastbay," got here in full force last night at a reception in the Kaiser Center bearing "a reward, a challenge and a promise."

Owner George Fleharty, executive associate Barry Van Gerbig, general manager Rudy Pilous, coach Charley Burns and

a cadre of Seals and Shasta Corp. officers, launched the hockey club's new tenancy in Oakland which will — a season hence — bring membership in the expanded National Hockey League.

They even kicked off a 1966-67 ticket drive, picking up substantial checks for blocks of season tickets from several of the civic

and business leaders who attended as guests of the board of directors of Coliseum Inc.

Fleharty, head of the Shasta empire which owns the Seals in conjunction with Van Gerbig and others, outlined Seal plans and aspirations.

He explained that the reward is in headquartering a major league hockey franchise in Oak-

land, "a major development for the Eastbay." The challenge is both to the club and the community to build to the full potentials within reach, and the promise is to reach National Hockey League standards as quickly as possible.

Van Gerbig, after it was pointed out that NHL attendance averages 95 per cent of

capacity — 105 per cent in Chicago — expanded upon the "promise" as it bears upon him and Pilous, especially:

"The National Hockey Leagues wants us to be competitive right from the start," he said. "They don't want one team in three playing their otherwise packed houses and drawing nothing but flies. In Rudy

Pilous we came up with the best man in hockey for the job of building to the toughest standards anywhere in sports."

The Executive Dining Room of the Kaiser Center was peopled with a "Who's Who in Oakland" for the dinner. Mayor John Reading, Coliseum Board members Robert Nahas, William Knowland, George Looz,

Oakland Raiders owner Wayne Valley, Chamber of Commerce Pres. Elmo Mazzer, and many other civic and business leaders were present to welcome the Seals.

Nahas greeted the club officials, who will open the new Coliseum's arena next fall, and

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Fleharty, Van Gerbig and Pious responded.

"We're betting a large hunk of our marble bag that this move is right," Fleharty said. "No longer can anyone look at the Eastbay in any light but that of a rapidly developing center."

The Seals, earlier yesterday, had told a meeting of the Canadian Businessmen's Club of Northern California of two objectives ahead.

"We're out to educate the public on the sport of hockey, and on one of the greatest showcases in North America in which to watch hockey — the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum arena."

"We want them to know what a beautiful and functional area they will have to help them enjoy the sport," Fleharty said in remarks to the group in San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel.

The Seals will play their first season in Oakland as their last season in the Western Hockey League this fall and winter.

Fleharty explained that the Seals moved to Oakland from the Cow Palace because "The people built a proper building. The city's leadership was ready to do, not wait."

He said the Cow Palace was designed to watch rodeos and horse shows, not hockey, and support for a new building was almost non-existent.

And if they had waited for the Legislature to appropriate funds to remodel the Cow Palace, the whole National Hockey League idea might never have gotten off the ground, Fleharty suggested.

Fleharty said he will handle the sport as a business and Van Gerbig will handle the business as a sport.

Van Gerbig said he will have two main responsibilities: to serve as the Governor and to travel with the club's hockey men "to help turn over rocks to find strong legs" that will be the club's strength in the years to come.

"With hard work," declared Van Gerbig, "a little luck in the June '67 expansion draft, and some help from the present governors, in three to five years, we'll be able to skate with anybody — from the Montreal Canadiens, right on down." —By SPENCE CONLEY



# Seals To Meet Gulls

NOV 8 - 1966

By SPENCE CONLEY

The California Seals, some 20 strong with old faces and new, a couple borrowed and none of them blue after a successful 10-game road trip, make their 1966-67 home debut Wednesday in the first-ever event in the sparkling new Coliseum Arena.

They'll start the first of 36 home encounters at 8 p.m. against the last-place San Diego Gulls, the struggling new entry in the Western Hockey League.

Directed by Rudy Pilous, a shrewd general manager and bench boss, the Seals won four, tied three and lost three on their initial northern swing and reside in second place with the Los Angeles Blades.

Because work is continuing on the vast roof structure of the Arena, the Seals were unable to hold a full-scale practice today.

Instead they were to take an hour and a half workout starting at 9 p.m.

The Seals have blended outstanding goalkeeping with solid defense and a sometimes balanced attack and rate as a good

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# Defense Strong Points

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bet to topple Victoria from the championship.

At least two Seal favorites are gone: High-scoring wing Wayne Connelly is getting a big chance with the Boston Bruins; colorful defenseman Larry McNabb has been "loaned" to San Diego and while he won't be in Black and Gold he'll be in action Wednesday.

Al Nicholson, last year's Seal captain, is at San Diego, too.

Also gone are Ron Schock, back to Boston; Mike Harvey, to Hershey; and Del Topoll to Vancouver.

Gerry Brisson, a speedy winger, has been traded to Vancouver for Bob Kabel. Neither has reported yet.

But for the most part, the Seals return with a solid core of familiar names, already playing better than they have in two years and the future seems bright.

Meet the Seals. You'll probably get to know them pretty well before the season ends next April.

In goal:

**JACK McCARTAN**, 31, 6-1, 195, hero of the 1960 Olympic champion U.S. hockey team, off to one of the best starts of his six year pro career. Member of the Big 10 and NCAA champion Minnesota baseball team. Has sure, quick hands and excellent reflexes. After 10 games, his goal average is an outstanding 2.20. Fine team leader and o

top performer for the Seals last season.

**JEAN GUY MORISSETTE**, 28, 5-6, 140, top-rated goalie. Saw limited action last season with the Cleveland Barons of the American League. "Frenchie" has yet to see action this year, but Pilous has high regard for him as a backup performer.

On defense:

**WILLIAM JACK (TEX) EVANS**, 38, 6-1, 195, veteran of 17 years in the National Hockey League. Has been top Seal defenseman so far, playing smart, steady hockey. Was member of Pilous' Chicago Black Hawk 1961 Stanley Cup championship team. Played with Los Angeles and Vancouver before coming to the Seals. Assistant team captain.

**GERRY ODROWSKI**, 29, 5-11, 185, strong skater and excellent penalty killer, who like McCartan is off to a fast start and a potential berth on the WHL all-star squad. Played two years with Detroit of the NHL and starting second full season with the Seals. Also an assistant captain.

**MO MANTHA**, 33, 6-2, 195, back with the Seals after a two year absence. Has played reasonably steady defense and operates well as the point-man on Seal power play. Was with Seattle and comes back to Seals after a deal with Montreal and Vancouver.

**JOHN GRAVEL**, 25, 5-8, 170, another good slap shot who can play the power play point. Had

some trouble getting started this season, but has improved steadily and is approaching last year's form. Good skater and puck handler.

**JEAN MARC PICARD**, 30, 5-11, 190, in fifth season with the Seals. Has fine moves and has seen much action this year.

**AL (JUNIOR) LANGLOIS**, 32, 6-0, 205, smart National League veteran of eight years, in first season with the Seals after opening the year with the Boston Bruins. Big, hard-hitting, and experienced, Junior provides Seal defense with reliable performance, good skating and shooting.

Centers:

**CHARLES BURNS**, 30, 5-11, 180, the helmeted work-horse who after 10 games leads the team in scoring with two goals and seven assists. Talented stickhandler and shooter, Burns has taken over as the pivot man on the power play and penalty killing unit, and is generally the team leader from the standpoint of hustle and accomplishment. Playing coach last year, Burns put the Seals into the playoff semifinals but this year relinquished the job to Pilous who is attempting to build a new concept of the game. Charlie has been the team captain, but as he is to take over as coach again on Dec. 19 when Pilous goes East to scout for potential expanded NHL talent, the WHL won't let him wear the "C" on his uniform. You can't be both

coach and captain. Burns is in his third year with the Seals.

**FORBES KENNEDY**, 31, 5-9, 182, a long time National Leaguer with Boston, Chicago and Detroit, is known for his rugged checking and fearless assault on enemy defensemen. A powerful skater and good shooter, Kennedy is another newcomer to the Seals. He played briefly with the club last year before going back to the Bruins.

**RAY CYR**, 33, 5-8, 172, once dedicated to play-making rather than goal-scoring, Cyr also is off to a good start, playing steady up and down hockey just the way Pilous likes it. In the last game, however, he was switched to wing and has shown good versatility.

**DOUG SENIOR**, 25, 5-7, 180, a hard-working pivot who saw action last year with both Providence and Quebec of the AHL. He plays position well and in his first three games, has picked up two assists.

Wings:

**RON HARRIS**, 24, 5-9, 175, one

of the top performers on the Seals this season and already, after 10 games is the leading goal-scorer with George Swarbrick, at four each. "Muscles" is a slam-bang hockey player with both excellent speed and shooting ability. But he has a history of injury because of his fierce play and if he can stay healthy, should be one of the top scorers on the club, and an outstanding NHL prospect.

**WAYNE MAXNER**, 24, 5-11, 170, fine skater with an unusual variety of accurate shots. Has seen action this year as both a wing and a center. A one-time Boston Bruin, Wayne saw some action last year in the NHL but otherwise toiled for the Seals.

**STAN GILBERTSON**, 22, 6-0, 175, a scrappy hustler who broke into pro hockey with the Seals last year and so far, is developing rapidly.

His hustle earned him a regular wing job this year. He hits and moves around well.

**DANNY BELISLE**, 29, 5-10, 164, another former Seal who is

returning after a three year absence. Danny, a good shooter, got off to a good start but then slowed down. He has fine potential and always is a scoring threat. He was with Memphis of the Central Pro League last year. He is in his ninth year as a pro, with seasons of 20 goals or more.

**GEORGE SWARBRICK**, 24, 5-10, 175, won the WHL rookie award in his first year as a pro with the Seals two seasons ago. In the last two years he has had over 20 goals and already this year is co-goal-scoring leader with four. A player with all the vital skills of puck-handling, skating and shooting, "Snowy" (he rubs rinks snow on his wrists to cool off during games) should be a WHL star this season.

**TOM THURLBY**, 28, 5-10, 175, a five-year-Seal veteran who has great versatility. He is known primarily as a defenseman, but occasionally steps up to wing position. Pilous has made him a forward again this year. Tom's best asset is his steadiness, he plays solid hockey with no frills, but has good enough scoring skills to be a threat when he heads up ice.



# Seals Lose Pilous To Expansion Meet

DEC 14 1966

Special to The Tribune

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The California Seals arrived here today for a battle with the Vancouver Canucks, suffering from the loss first of their current Northern road swing and the unexpected absence of coach and general manager Ruday Pilous.

The Seals lost to the Leafs, 3-1, in Victoria last night.

Pilous was summoned to New York by Seal owner Barry Van Gerbig to attend a special meeting of owners and general manager of the six new franchises in the expanded National Hockey League.

The meeting is set for Thursday.

Pilous, who described the conference as "a pow-wow on expansion problems," said he believes the main order of business will be to find out the drafting formula which will stock the new clubs.

"We want to clear the air," Pilous said, "There are an awful lot of rumors flying and nobody seems to know for sure what's going on.

"We want to get some numbers: how many players from present NHL teams, and when. We would like to have the information in our hands by the NHL All-Star game Jan. 18."

Last night's loss to the Leafs, was the Seals' first road defeat since Nov. 4 when they were beaten 4-1 at Vancouver.

It was a clearly a case of the Maple Leafs finally untracking after losing eight out of their last nine games. They outshot the Seals, 38-25.

After a scoreless first period, Milan Marcetta scored, assisted

by Bob Barlow and Andy Heberton.

The Leafs made it 3-0 halfway through the final period as Mike Laughton and Bruce Carmichael

scored with a minute of each other.

George Swarbrick, scoring his first goal in five games, averted

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he shut out at 17:25.

The loss evened the Seals' road record for this trip at 1-1-1. They remained tied for third with 24 points in the standings.

The problem tonight of directing the Seal operation against the Canucks is in the hands of Charlie Burns, the former playing-coach who will step in to cover while Pilous is in the East.

the second Canuck game Friday night; but after Sunday's game in Portland, he will leave for his home in St. Catherine's, Ont., and the beginning of a long scouting trip that will give the Seals a "book" from which to draft next June.

Burns will assume coaching controls of the club when Pilous leaves.

First period—None. Penalties—Kabel 14:40; Kennedy (C) 3:32; Erickson (VI) 11.

Second period—1, Victoria, Marcette Barlow, Hebenton) 7:00. Penalty—Swarbrick (C) 9:45.

Third period—2, Victoria, Laughton (Lamoureux) 7:08; 3, Victoria, Carmichael (Shvetz) 8:06; 4, California, Swarbrick, 17:25. Penalty—Kennedy (C) 7:03.

Saves  
McCartan 13 11 11—35  
Morissette 3 — —3  
Smith 9 7 9—25

Attendance, 2,022.

#### WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE By The Associated Press

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland .....	16	5	6	38	112	69
Vancouver .....	14	9	2	30	86	73
Los Angeles .....	11	15	2	24	98	115
California .....	10	9	4	24	62	74
Seattle .....	10	13	3	23	68	77
Victoria .....	8	11	4	20	68	67
San Diego .....	8	15	1	17	73	92

#### Tuesday's Results

Victoria 3, California 1

#### Wednesday's Schedule

California at Vancouver

# Pilous New Seals' G.M.

MAY 18 1966

By SPENCE CONLEY

Rudy Pilous, 51-year-old former coach of the Chicago Black Hawks, today signed a four-year contract as general manager of the California Seals.

Pilous, who reportedly will earn an estimated \$20,000 per year, will boss the Seals' Western Hockey League operation in Oakland next season and pilot the club through its first three years in the expanded National Hockey League.

His hiring was announced by George Fleharty, president of Shasta Corporation, owners of the team, and Barry Van Gerbig, the club's top administrative executive.

Pilous replaces Norman R. (Bud) Poile, general manager and sometime coach of the Seals for the past four years, who resigned earlier this month. Poile reportedly will step into a similar job with the NHL's new Philadelphia franchise.

"We are very happy to have Rudy with us," Fleharty said.

"He brings many talents to our organization and we have every confidence that his history for putting winning hockey teams on the ice will continue."

"In addition, he has the ad-

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ministrative abilities which are required in the complex business of organizing and running a major league club," Fleharty continued.

The announcement of Pilous' appointment followed a meeting of the Canadian Business Men's Association this afternoon in the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

Pilous, who has coached in the National, Western, and Eastern Canada junior leagues, began his career in 1948 when he coached Houston in the now defunct United States Hockey League.

He took Houston to the regular season championship and the following year moved to San Diego of the old Pacific Coast Hockey League.

He took the Skyhawks to the Lester Patrick Cup championship after barely making the fourth - place playoff position.

Both teams were part of the Buffalo Bisons' organization where Pilous had previously served as a scout and promotional aide.

After his stint in San Diego, he returned to St. Catharines in Ontario. In 1954 he led the St. Catharines' TeePees to the Memorial Cup championship.

For his work he was named "Executive of the Year," by the Hockey News, the first amateur manager to receive the honor.

In 1958, he was named coach of the Chicago Black Hawks and in three years, he coached them to the 1961 Stanley Cup championship. The following year, despite a second-place finish in the regular season NHL standings, he was replaced by Billy Reay.

He moved to the Toronto Maple Leaf organization and became coach and general manager of the Denver Invaders of



**RUDY PILOUS**

the WHL and promptly won the regular season title.

In another year, the Invaders were shifted to Victoria and Pilous got them into the playoffs.

Last winter, he moved back into amateur hockey, operating the Hamilton Red Wings of the Ontario Jr. A Hockey Association.

Although he hadn't officially signed his contract with the Seals, Pilous represented the team in the April amateur draft and has helped set up the team's proposed developmental farm system.

"I'm as happy as I can be to be allied with the Bay Area organization," Pilous declared.

"I have never believed in anything but hard work. Whatever success we have had in the past has come through nothing but hard work.

"We are starting out in the new NHL on an even basis, we can't ask for anything fairer than that. I'll promise you that all of us will work hard.